

25X1  
G. Carver, Jr.  
DCI/SAVA

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31 July 1971

SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

☐ INDEX

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SAVA

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PRIORITY SAIGON

\* Reported the present status of Vice President Ky's chances for qualifying as a presidential candidate.

REF: SAIGON 34837 (IN 390490) \*

1. AT REQUEST OF SENATOR'S STAFF, [ ] AND [ ] HAD TWO HOUR SESSION WITH SENATOR ADLAI STEVENSON III/ (DEMOCRAT ILLINOIS) AND HIS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT THOMAS WAGNER. AT BEGINNING OF SESSION, SENATOR OUTLINED HIS TRIP AND ITINERARY (THAILAND, VIETNAM, JAPAN, USSR). HE PLANS TO BE IN VIETNAM FROM 13 THROUGH 18 AUGUST. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY WAGNER AND PROFESSOR JOHN W. LEWIS OF STANFORD.

25X1

2. MOST OF OUR CONVERSATION DEALT WITH FORTHCOMING LOWER HOUSE AND, PARTICULARLY, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, SENATOR STEVENSON'S MAIN VIETNAM INTEREST. WE EXPLAINED BACKGROUND OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE POLITICAL HISTORY AND CONSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT, DISCUSSING 1967 ELECTIONS IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL. ON LATTER, WE STRESSED LARGE DEGREE OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION (ABOUT 57 PERCENT OF TOTAL ADULT POPULATION), FREE SWINGING NATURE OF CAMPAIGN, AND

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ROUTING AND/OR RETURN	
5	
6	
7	
8	

SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION		<input type="checkbox"/> INDEX	<input type="checkbox"/> NO INDEX	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN TO	BRANCH	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE RID
PER	#	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE IN CS FILE NO.				
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PAGE TWO

ELECTIONS' ESSENTIAL HONESTY IF ONE USED REAL WORLD COMPARISON STANDARDS SUCH AS COOK COUNTY OR DOWNSTATE ILLINOIS. ALSO POINTED OUT THAT GIVEN ELEVEN SLATE COMPETITION, THIEU-KY WIN WITH 34.8 PERCENT OF VOTES EMINENTLY RESPECTABLE AND THEIR MANDATE EVERY BIT AS VALID AS ALLENDE'S IN CHILE OR LINDSAY'S IN NEW YORK. WHEN STEVENSON RAISED DZU, WE REMINDED HIM THAT ALTHOUGH DZU GOT 17% OF VOTE, ALL OTHER SLATES, WHO COLLECTIVELY GOT 83%, WERE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO ANY CONCILIATION WITH COMMUNISTS. IN ESSENCE, ANTI-COMMUNIST VOTE TOTALED OVER 80% BUT IT WAS SPLIT AMONG TEN SLATES AND THERE, IN NUTSHELL, WAS VIETNAM'S MAJOR POLITICAL PROBLEM.

3. AFTER ABOVE STAGE SETTING, WE EXPLAINED THIEU'S CAREFUL, THOROUGH AND PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE CULTIVATION OF WHAT HE REGARDED AS THREE KEY CONSTITUENCIES: THE MILITARY (INCLUDING DEPENDENTS), CIVIL SERVICE (DITTO), AND RURAL LEADERSHIP. THIEU'S EXPLOITATION OF ADVANTAGES OF INCUMBENCY WAS ACKNOWLEDGED BUT WE POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS COMMON PRACTICE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. DISCUSSION HERE KEYED TO

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S E C R E T

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

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☐ INDEX

☐ NO INDEX

☐ RETURN TO

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☐ FILE RID

PER #

☐ FILE IN CS FILE NO.

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(reference number)

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PAGE THREE

7

7

EXPLAINING HOW AND WHY THIEU LEGITIMATELY HELD MOST OF THE HIGH CARDS AND WHY HE COULD ALMOST CERTAINLY WIN TOTALLY OPEN CONTEST AGAINST ANY OPPONENT OR GROUP OF OPPONENTS.

4. STEVENSON WANTED TO BORE IN ON 40/100 LAW AND FREEZE OUT OF KY. WE EXPLAINED MECHANICS OF STATUTE AND WHY THIEU WANTED CLEAR CUT CHOICE PUT BEFORE ELECTORATE WITH RESULTS UNFUZZED BY FRIVOLOUS CANDIDATES AND, HOPEFULLY, YIELDING WINNER WITH ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF VOTES CAST. WE TRIED TO STEER CAREFUL LINE BETWEEN NOT LETTING SIDE DOWN WITHOUT IN PROCESS MAKING [ ] LOOK DISINGENUOUS OR STUPID. WE FLATLY REFUSED TO PREDICT WHETHER OR NOT KY WOULD QUALIFY, NOTING THAT BY TIME SENATOR ARRIVED IN VIETNAM MATTER WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED FACT.

5. STEVENSON WAS VERY COURTEOUS BUT DOUBT SERIOUSLY IF WE BUDGED HIM VERY MUCH. HE WILL ARRIVE IN SAIGON LOOKING FOR AMMUNITION AND SITUATION WELL DESCRIBED IN REF IS NOT GOING TO HELP. BALL ON BRIEFING HIM SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE CARRIED BY EMBASSY, BUT ABOVE MAY BE USEFUL BACKGROUND IF YOU GET INVOLVED.

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1		5	
2		6	
3		7	
4		8	

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PAGE FOUR

6. PROFESSOR LEWIS PLANS TO ARRIVE IN SAIGON ONE DAY AHEAD OF STEVENSON AND WAGNER TO LINE UP LOCALS FOR THEM TO SEE. AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, LEWIS IS DISTINCTLY DOVEISH (THOUGH USUALLY REASONABLE) POLITICAL SCIENTIST WHO CO-AUTHORED BOOK ENTITLED THE UNITED STATES IN VIETNAM WITH GEORGE McT. KAHIN OF CORNELL. BOOK IS BASIC TEXT FOR ANTI-WAR ELEMENTS. SINCE ITS 1966 PUBLICATION AUTHORS HAVE SPLIT, LARGELY BECAUSE KAHIN HAS MOVED LEFTWARD BEYOND WHAT LEWIS CONSIDERS BOUNDARIES OF INTELLECTUAL INTEGRITY. LEWIS IS VERY PLEASANT PERSONALLY BUT ON THIS TRIP HE IS PURSUING A CAUSE AND AMMUNITION TO FURTHER SAME. LEWIS MAY CLAIM SOME [ ] AFFILIATION OR CLEARANCE STATUS TO FURTHER HIS OBJECTIVES. HE IS INDEED A [ ]

[ ] MATTERS OF ANY DESCRIPTION SHOULD BE REVEALED TO OR DISCUSSED OR WITH SENATOR. LEWIS WITH HIM. HE WILL PROBABLY BEHAVE ON THIS SCORE, BUT PLEASE LET US KNOW IF HE DOES NOT. END OF MESSAGE

OLC

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William E. Nelson, C/FE

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George A. Carver, Jr., SAVA

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